

Fraud office raids Maxwell HQ

LONDON (R) — Fraud officers raided the London headquarters of the late Robert Maxwell's crumbling empire on Friday while employees of his newspaper group battled to save their jobs and their pensions. One of the century's most spectacular business failures clouded the future of famous newspaper titles around the world and threatened a political row over a suggestion that Britain's conservative government knew months ago Mr. Maxwell was in trouble. Richard Stott, editor of Mr. Maxwell's flagship *Daily Mirror*, said he was approached by administrators about buying the Maxwell family's 51 per cent stake in Mirror Group newspapers Plc. Predators poised to swoop on fragments of the empire after court administrators took charge of Mr. Maxwell's private holding companies to salvage what they could in view of debts exceeding \$2.5 billion. Police from the serious fraud office, which is investigating allegations about millions of pounds missing from the Mirror Group pension fund, searched into the night through files at Maxwell House in central London, the fraud office said. The corporate crime unit was called in last month, sparking a banking crisis for the Maxwell family group. The private companies have total debt of £1.4 billion. (See earlier story on page 7).

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AMMAN SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1991, JUMADEH AL AKHERA 1, 1412

Algerian rally ends without violence

ALGIERS (R) — A protest rally by tens of thousands of Islamic fundamentalists in Algeria passed off peacefully Friday as security forces managed mass thoroughfares and guarded government buildings. "To avoid a bloodbath," the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) cancelled marches ruled illegal during Algeria's general election campaign and instead held rallies throughout the country. Campaigning ceased Thursday. Local FIS leaders Bou Jafer Meziane told an estimate of 40,000 supporters in their traditionally rallying point, Martyr's Square: "There will be no free and honest elections. The freedom of the sheikhs." The crowd, which had moved there quickly after Friday prayers in mosques, exploded with shouts of "Islamic state, without a vote." Overhead a police helicopter circled. FIS leaders, including President Abassi Madani and Deputy Ali Belhadj, were arrested in June by the military enforcing a state of siege. They face charges of armed conspiracy against the state. Algeria is due to hold its first multiparty general election on Dec. 26. The original poll was postponed last June after violence between fundamentalists demanding an Islamic state and security forces. Fifty five people died. Interim FIS leader Abdu Khader Hachani said the people were meeting in 48 regions to demand the release of the leaders.

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

King meets British general

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein received Thursday at the Royal Court General Peter de Labilliere, advisor on the Middle East affairs at the British Joint Chiefs of Staff. The meeting was attended by chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Field Marshal Fathi Abu Taleb, the King's military secretary His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, and the British ambassador in Amman. The British general was also received by Prime Minister and Minister of Defence Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker at the Prime Ministry. The meeting reviewed the situation in the region and cooperation between Jordan and the U.K. Field Marshal Abu Taleb separately met the general and discussed with him scopes of cooperation in the field of training personnel as well as issue of common interest.

Katyusha rockets hit Israeli-held town

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — Katyusha rockets slammed into an Israeli-held town in South Lebanon Friday for the second time in two days, security sources said. They said five rockets hit the town of Marjayoun, 12 kilometres north of Israel, where the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia has its headquarters. There was no immediate word on casualties or which group was behind the mid-morning attack. Four Katyushas fell near an SLA barracks in Marjayoun on Thursday, causing some damage but no injuries.

Syria frees prisoners in election gesture

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian President Hafez Al-Assad has released 700 to 800 prisoners in a gesture apparently related to his reelection. Western sources in Damascus said Friday. The U.S. State Department reported earlier this year that up to 1,200 Syrians were held in long-term detention without trial. It was not clear how many of those freed were political detainees but the sources said some, perhaps most, were Muslim activists and leftists held without trial for anti-Assad agitation in the early 1980s. Rabbi Ibrahim Hanra, leader of Syria's Jewish community of about 4,000, told reporters last week that four of the six Syrian Jews detained for trying to emigrate had been released. Syrian Jews are allowed to travel abroad but not to leave the country as family groups. Western sources say, like other Syrians, they are forbidden to go to Israel. Mr. Assad, the only candidate, won another seven years in power in a yes-or-no ballot on Monday.

Arafat draws Israeli flag for newspaper

PARIS (R) — The French newspaper *Le Monde* on Friday published drawings penned for it by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, including one depicting Israeli and Palestine flags side by side across a border line. "If (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Shamir and the Israeli administration decide on peace... that will be the solution," Mr. Arafat was quoted as telling *Le Monde* cartoonist Jean Plantu. Mr. Plantu said Mr. Arafat did the drawings during a meeting in Tunis last May at Mr. Arafat's request after Mr. Plantu had published cartoons critical of his support for Iraq in the Gulf conflict. One Arafat cartoon showed a Muslim crescent, a Christian cross and a Jewish menorah (candelabrum) intertwined.

S. African president to visit Moscow

MOSCOW (R) — South African President F.W. de Klerk will next week visit Moscow, which for decades has backed opponents of white minority rule in South Africa, a Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman said Friday. "South African President Frederick de Klerk will come to Moscow on Dec. 13," spokesman Vitaly Churkin told a news briefing. Mr. Churkin said the visit was arranged on Pretoria's initiative. Moscow aimed to encourage further progress in a complex process of negotiations taking place in South Africa on gradually dismantling minority rule, he said.

Contacts continue over new date for bilaterals

From Jordan Times Staff Reporters in Washington

INTER-ARAB and Arab-U.S. contacts continued in earnest Friday to agree on procedures and a new date for the continuation of Arab-Israeli bilateral talks, which failed to take place on Wednesday after the Israeli delegation's failure to show up.

The discussions, which have been ongoing even before Wednesday, centred on questions like who should call for the new meetings, how they should take place and in what form.

There is consensus among the four delegates that the new round of talks should not be held Monday, since acquiescing to that date, which commemorates the fourth anniversary of the intifada, would be tantamount to accepting Israeli conditions to resume the negotiations.

But the Arab side had been unable to agree on the best way to engage the Americans over the decision needed to reconvene the talks on another day next week, presumably Tuesday.

The State Department has been vague in its approach to the issue. On the one hand, it is

saying that the Arabs have not officially requested direct American intervention in the dispute over the date, and that it is up to the Arab and Israeli sides to agree between them on when they should resume the talks. On the other hand, U.S. officials, apparently to appease the Israelis, are maintaining that the decision to bring Arab and Israeli delegates to Washington was not in itself an invitation, but rather a "proposal," which the two sides could accept or refuse at will.

Some Arab delegates were incensed by others merely critical of this attitude by the State Department, and called for a strong-worded official Arab request from the Americans to unilaterally set a new date for the talks on Tuesday.

Other delegates preferred more quiet diplomacy, urging more sympathy to the American argument, since "it is in everybody's interest to keep the U.S. positively engaged in the process," as one Arab delegate put it.

The Secretary of State, James

Baker, is reported to be "angry" and "extremely disappointed" with the Israeli failure to show up for the Dec. 4 talks, but he has so far kept out of direct involvement in the "wrangling" over the holding of the talks.

In her daily briefing to the media yesterday, Margaret Tutwiler, his spokeswoman, said the secretary was "kept informed" of the developments but that he had not met any of the delegates or called their leaders in the region to solve the problem.

"(Baker) is leaving it to (U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for the Near East) Edward Djerjian to handle the Arabs and the Israelis," an informed source said. The secretary is scheduled to appear on "Face of the Nation" programme on Sunday and he might be talking about it, "but for now, he is leaving it up to Djerjian to work out the details," according to the source.

Secretary Baker is scheduled to leave for the Soviet Union and Europe between Nov. 14 and 21, and therefore he will not be in town to supervise U.S. diplomatic efforts on the Middle East if the talks are held and still

ongoing during that period. However, he was earlier quoted as saying that "we are very hopeful that the process will continue." Mr. Baker told reporters on Dec. 5 as he began a meeting with Nelson Mandela, president of the African National Congress. "We are going to continue to work to the extent that we can, to be a catalyst for peace."

Mr. Djerjian separately with the individual heads of the Syrian, Lebanese, Jordan and Palestinian delegations Thursday, and State Department experts conferred by telephone with other officials, including Israel.

"We are consulting these people as we all have been over many days here, about trying to find a way to get the talks that were begun in Madrid resumed here," the spokeswoman said.

"We've made it very clear that we are here and open for business," Mr. Baker told reporters during his photo-opportunity with Mr. Mandela. "And we will continue to hope that the parties themselves will get together and agree that they do indeed want to continue the process that was

begun in Madrid. We are very hopeful that they will."

Had the United States not assumed the role of a catalyst for peace in the past, the secretary said, "I am not at all sure that Madrid would have happened, that the initial round of bilateral negotiations would have taken place, or indeed that the parties would either be in Washington or on our way to Washington. So we're very hopeful that the process will continue."

Ms. Tutwiler Friday reiterated U.S. rejection to set a new official opening date for the resumption of Arab-Israeli bilateral talks.

"The U.S. is out of the proposal. Our proposal for Dec. 4 is open ended," Ms. Tutwiler said. "We will not accept conditions on our proposal and we will not change our proposal... once you open that door where does it end?"

The two sides say that what is at stake in the seemingly petty game over dates is an issue of essential importance to both sides of the conflict: The role of the United States.

The U.S. rejection prompted

Bulletin: Arabs reach initial agreement

The Arab delegations Friday reached initial agreement to send a letter to the State Department informing it that they will be attending Arab-Israeli bilateral talks on Tuesday, highly informed sources said. The delegations were scheduled to hold a full meeting early Saturday (Eastern time) to approve a proposal agreed to earlier by a smaller committee to this effect, the sources said. "The decision was taken to merely tell the Americans that the Arabs will be coming to the State Department Tuesday for meetings with the Israelis," an official source said. "Other proposals to ask the Americans to set a date for the talks or to meet the Israelis outside the official site of the talks have, for now at least, been discarded in favour of the above proposal," the source said. The source dismissed as "untrue" an Israeli allegation that the Arab side had rejected an "American suggestion" that the two sides meet outside the State Department to agree on a new date for the talks. "The Israelis, not the Americans, did that, and the suggestion was not acceptable to us. This is the whole story."

He explained that there was never any American mention of time or place for such a meeting and that the idea was only floated as an idea but not for serious consideration.

Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi to accuse Washington Thursday of "shirking its responsibility as co-sponsor of the talks by covering up Israeli intransigence."

"The co-sponsors issued a proposal after the parties themselves failed to agree on a date," Ms. Tutwiler told journalists. (Continued on page 2)

Israelis claim boycott a success, talks next week

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli cabinet minister, proclaiming the Jewish state's boycott of Middle East peace talks a victory, said Friday he expected agreement to resume negotiations in Washington next week.

"We won what we intended to win," Police Minister Ronni Milo, a close ally of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, said of Israel's refusal to accept U.S. dates for resumed negotiations.

"We assume that the talks will continue next week, whether on Monday or Tuesday," Mr. Milo said. "The date is not a vital issue."

Israel, after refusing to attend the scheduled reopening of peace talks on Wednesday, proposed a meeting next Monday.

Arab delegations object to Dec. 9 because it is the fourth anniversary of the Palestinian uprising.

In Arab East Jerusalem and parts of the occupied West Bank, shops were closed by a monthly general strike called by the Islamic Jihad, a group opposed to peace talks.

About 50,000 Palestinians in the Ramallah area of the West Bank remained under curfew for a sixth day as troops searched for assailants who killed a Jewish settler in an ambush last Sunday.

The United States has refused to intercede in the dispute over the timing of the next meeting, saying only that it will keep rooms available until the participants decide they are no longer

legations on Wednesday.

Israeli officials were relieved to see the affair eclipsed in the United States by other news, including the release of the last U.S. hostage in Lebanon. They said damage to the Jewish state's image had been minimised.

"I don't exactly see the public relations damage," said Mr. Milo.

Another Israeli cabinet minister said he thought the Israeli boycott had achieved its desired result — to signal to the Arabs Israel would not act on U.S. dates of discussion for agreement.

Washington believes any solution must involve an Arab offer of peace in return for an Israeli withdrawal from some of the territory seized during the 1967 Middle East war.

However, Mr. Shamir vowed this week to never withdraw from any territory.

"It is clear the Americans have understood very well the message that we sent them," Mr. Milo told Israel radio. He said the Jewish state was now in a stronger position.

"Negotiations will be long, but they will be hard," he said. "But I believe we have a common interest with the Arabs, mainly the Palestinian-Jordanian delegation, to change the existing situation to the benefit of both sides."

"If we know how to be stubborn when necessary and flexible when necessary, and if the other side understands they have to be ready for concessions and are ready to compromise with reality, there is a chance to reach an agreement," Mr. Meridor said.

Israel, which for decades had declared readiness to meet Arabs anywhere at any time for peace talks, was left in the awkward position of trying to justify its refusal to join waiting Arab delegations.

Moscow gearing up for Mideast multilateral meeting

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union is gearing up for a new round of Middle East peace talks to be held in Moscow in January, Foreign Ministry spokesman Vitaly Churkin said on Friday.

"We are getting positive reactions from various capitals, in connection with the declarations by the U.S. and Soviet co-chairmen of the Middle East peace conference to... to pave the way for a new Security Council resolution to maintain the economic blockade imposed on Iraq," the agency quoted the spokesman as saying.

U.N. officials said Thursday that about 200,000 Kurds had fled up to 200,000 Kurds to flee their homes for the comparative safety of wintry mountain heights.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted an official source as saying the allegations made by the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) were false.

"That spokesman is lying. The U.S. government has ordered him to make such a statement to... to pave the way for a new Security Council resolution to maintain the economic blockade imposed on Iraq," the agency quoted the spokesman as saying.

Incarceration of areas of northern Syria and northern Iraq by the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) were false.

"In Erbil province further to the north, another 60,000 made for the hills after troops ordered villages to leave, it added.

Iraq, under U.N. blockade since shortly after its Aug. 2, 1990 invasion of Kuwait, said there was ample justification to lift the blockade if a great deal of people were homeless and in need of shelter and food."

"The UNHCR should have

Iraq denies report of attacks on Kurds

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq Friday denied U.N. reports that shelling by its troops had forced up to 200,000 Kurds to flee their homes for the comparative safety of wintry mountain heights.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted an official source as saying the allegations made by the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) were false.

"That spokesman is lying. The U.S. government has ordered him to make such a statement to... to pave the way for a new Security Council resolution to maintain the economic blockade imposed on Iraq," the agency quoted the spokesman as saying.

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Libya offers to hand over Lockerbie suspects to Arab state

CAIRO (R) — Libya has offered to hand over to an Arab country two of its nationals suspected by the West of blowing up a Pan Am plane in 1988, a state-owned Egyptian newspaper said.

"Libya's Arab league envoy offered to hand over to the two Libyans accused of downing the American plane to an Arab state," Akbar Al Yom said in an early Saturday edition.

It said Libyan envoy Ali Tariki, a former foreign minister, informed the Arab League of "positive steps to prove Libya is not involved in any terrorist operation."

The United States and Britain want the two Libyan intelligence agents to face trial in the West.

The newspaper said Libya made the offer to resolve the bombing dispute peacefully.

Libya has so far refused to hold informal consultations on Friday for its periodic review of sanctions against Iraq. Diplomats said there is virtually no chance the embargo would be modified.

"Nothing warrants change," said Soviet Ambassador Yuli Vorontsov, this month's council president.

(Continued on page 2)

Fadlallah: No hostage deal demands Israel free Arabs

BEIRUT (R) — The spiritual leader of Lebanon's Muslim fundamentalists said Friday no deal was behind the U.N.-mediated release this week of the last American hostages in Lebanon.

But Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah demanded that Israel unconditionally free an estimated 250 Lebanese prisoners.

In a Friday sermon, Sheikh Fadlallah singled out kidnapped Sheik Abdul Karim Obeid among the prisoners and said the United States must use its good ties with Israel to secure his release.

"We have repeatedly said this (hostage) file must be closed and it is being closed

Arab group opposes repeal of resolution condemning Zionism

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The Arab group at the United Nations announced Thursday its unanimous opposition to a United States bid to revoke a controversial 1975 U.N. resolution equating Zionism with racism.

Citing decisions by the Arab League, "the Arab group opposes the raising of this issue," Ambassador Khalil Makkawi of Lebanon told a news conference.

"The Arab group considers further that revoking previous resolutions adopted by the General Assembly is, in principle, a very serious matter," said Mr. Makkawi, current chairman of the group, which reached its decision during a closed-door meeting earlier in the day.

Mr. Makkawi declined to go much beyond his prepared statement, which was first read in Arabic and then in English. But he said it was issued unanimously by the Arab group.

The United States launched a campaign this week to revoke the resolution on Zionism, adopted by the U.N. General Assembly on Nov. 10, 1975, after one of the stormiest debates in U.N. history.

U.S. State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said on Tuesday that Secretary of State James Baker had instructed

officials to work for repeal before the current General Assembly session is recessed on Dec. 17.

"As President (George) Bush indicated in September to the U.N. General Assembly, to equate Zionism with the intolerable sin of racism is to twist history," Ms. Tutwiler said.

"By repealing this resolution unconditionally, the United Nations will enhance its credibility and serve the cause of peace," she said.

The Arab group's statement that repeal would be a very serious matter appeared to lay the ground for getting such a move formally declared, under U.N. rules of procedure, "an important question" requiring a two-thirds majority.

The 166-member assembly decides by a simple majority of those present and voting whether an issue is "an important question."

Mr. Makkawi said U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering had told him of Washington's intention earlier this week, and he now intended informing picketing of the Arab group's opposition.

The resolution declaring Zionism to be "a form of racism and racial discrimination" was

adopted by a vote of 72 in favour and 35 against with 32 abstentions.

It was supported by the Soviet bloc and much of the Third World, including Arab and Islamic countries.

The Israeli U.N. representative at the time, Chaim Herzog, now his country's president, ended his speech by ripping up a copy of the resolution at the General Assembly podium.

Since the end of the cold war, many countries that voted for the resolution have restored diplomatic relations with Israel.

These include the Soviet Union and East European countries, most of which severed ties with Israel at the time of the 1967 Middle East war, and many African states that broke relations during the 1973 war.

Many speakers in this year's assembly session, in addition to Mr. Bush, spoke out strongly against the resolution condemning Zionism and urged its repeal.

They included then-Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin, who said the United Nations "should once and for all leave behind the legacy of the age like the obnoxious resolution equating Zionism to racism."

U.N. officials forecast more destitution in Iraq

ROME (R) — The U.N. agency whose food handouts are keeping 1.5 million Iraqis from starvation expect the number of destitutes there to grow the next six months.

The Rome-based World Food Programme (WFP) is handing out daily meals to some 540,000 Kurdish and Shiite refugees in the north and south of Iraq. It is also feeding a million other Iraqis classified as destitute.

"If (U.N.) sanctions continue as they are now, the likelihood is that the pressure on our programme will grow," said Broniek Szymanski, head of the WFP's disaster operations.

Sadruddin Aga Khan, the U.N. special envoy in charge of coordinating relief efforts in Iraq, said in October that although there were signs that plenty of food was getting into Iraq, the needy were suffering considerable hardship.

"It is manifest from the spot checks carried out by ourselves and other agencies that consider-



Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan

able amounts of food are indeed being imported," he said in a letter to the WFP.

"On the other hand, the mortality statistics — especially for children — remain a serious concern.

This would appear to indicate that while considerable food supplies may be available, the poorest segments of the population and its most vulnerable groups are not receiving their fair share," he wrote in his Oct. 29 letter.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Pakistan seizes hashish heading for Canada

KARACHI (R) — Pakistani officials have found 13 tonnes of hashish in a container destined for Canada, a customs spokesman said. Assistant Collector of Customs Afzal Bhatti said the drugs were seized in a raid in Karachi, Pakistan's biggest city, on Wednesday. The drugs, wrapped in polythene bags, were hidden in a consignment of cotton heading for Montreal via Dubai. Mr. Bhatti said Canadian authorities had been informed. Officials of Pakistan narcotics control board said the hashish was worth \$65 million on the streets of Montreal and more in the United States. In October, Pakistani security forces seized the world's biggest heroin haul of 3.2 tonnes along with 39 tonnes of hashish near the Iranian border in Baluchistan province.

Iraqis, Iranians stone U.N. building in Turkey

ANKARA (R) — A group of Iraqi and Iranian asylum-seekers stoned a U.N. building in Ankara Friday, demanding to be sent to the West. The Anatolian news agency said about 150 people, including women and children, broke windows in the building of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees after UNHCR officials refused to talk to them. Police stopped the crowd from entering the offices, it said. Iraqi Nejat Irakli said the refugees were getting no aid from the United Nations. "We have no place to live in, they (U.N.) should help us and send us to a European country," Iranian Ajdar Abdollahi said the refugees were given £300,000 liras (\$6) a month by the United Nations. "We can't live on this. They should send us to a European country or our children will die of hunger and cold."

U.S. urges end to 'carnage' in Somalia

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States has called on warring parties in Somalia to stop the "senseless carnage" that has killed over 2,000 people and wounded over 6,000 others. In an unusually tough written statement, U.S. State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler charged that almost one year after the fall of President Mohammad Siad Barre, "Somalis kill one another at a horrifying rate. Those fighting are not attempting to depose a dictator or repel a foreign invader." Rather, the appalling and intolerable slaughter results from selfish attempts by clan-based factions to gain or maintain advantage over one another. The United States deplores the suffering imposed on the people of Mogadishu by the leaders of the warring parties (and) calls on these leaders to stop the senseless carnage and wanton destruction of their own country."

Lebanese denies obtaining dissident list

BEIRUT (R) — An Lebanese security agent has denied being involved in illegally obtaining a list of 85 dissidents detained in France during a recent visit to Paris of President Elias Hrawi. Beirut's All Day newspaper on Friday quoted Agent Wissam Shami, who has been ordered expelled from France, as saying he knew the officer alleged to have passed on the list but denied asking him for "things of this sort." French Interior Minister Philippe Marchand said the Lebanese ambassador was summoned to the Foreign Ministry on Wednesday and told that Mr. Shami must leave country. "This morning the case of the Lebanese agent in question was discussed with the Lebanese ambassador who was called once again to the foreign ministry. He was told that the agent in question ... must leave our soil immediately," Mr. Marchand said.

France toughens stand on Libya

PARIS (R) — French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas said in an interview published Friday there would be "no limits" to retaliation meted out to the Libyan government if it was found responsible for the bombing of two airliners. "If the Libyan state as such is responsible for these acts, if it is guilty of fomenting, ordering and having them carried out, the consequences will be in keeping with this international crime," he told the French daily Liberation.

Contacts continue

(Continued from page 1)

"As you know four parties accepted the proposal and I would even argue that we have five... Israel sent from Prime Minister (Yitzhak) Shamir a letter with Ambassador Shoval accepting the proposal," she added implicitly criticising Israel's absence at the negotiation table at the scheduled time.

Dr. Ashrawi characterised America's response to Israel's absence as inadequate and an effort to avoid confrontation with Israel.

"We feel an American withdrawal from the process," Dr. Ashrawi told journalists at a Thursday press conference. "Israel has literally gotten away with murder."

But the Palestinian response to the American rejection sharply contrasted with Syrian statements saying that Washington was exerting serious efforts to settle the dispute and that Damascus "was impressed with U.S. efforts."

Ms. Tutwiler's announcement

that the U.S. is "out of the proposal business" was interpreted by some observers here as a "significant" shift in American policy. "Taken together with her insistence that the Washington talks, when they materialise, will be the result of a 'proposal' rather than an 'invitation', the announcement means that the Americans could be backtracking on their commitment to be an active partner in the peace process," one observer said.

Other observers, however, disagreed and interpreted the statement by Ms. Tutwiler as a pressure tactic to get the Arabs and Israelis to talk to one another and solve their own problems. "Baker used this tactic whenever he visited the region and could not get the parties to accept his proposal," an American analyst said.

"His threats of leaving everything and going back home usually worked," the analyst added. "This latest statement could well be part of the same strategy."

George Hawatmeh, Nemees Murad, Salameh Ne' matt, Ghader Taher and Caroline Faraj contributed to this story.

rate man who does not do anything until after studying it and knowing the results beforehand.

Mr. Reagan ordered a bombing raid against Libya in 1986 after Washington accused it of blowing up a Berlin disco frequented by American servicemen.

Col. Qadhafi said if Mr. Bush succeeded in his current effort to bring peace between Israel and its Arab neighbours "we will meet with him some day and I believe we can establish an understanding."

Col. Qadhafi strongly renounced terrorism and said strikes against Israeli civilians in the occupied territories were illegal.

"To fight the Israeli (occupying) army is legitimate but to try to kill Israeli students, blow up a bus, a building or a hotel is that is true terrorism," he said.

In the first part of the interview published on Friday, Col. Qadhafi said he was a revolutionary and not a terrorist.

He said Libya broke all ties with the Irish Republican Army after deciding it was a terrorist group and not a liberation movement.

3 killed in Zairean violence

(Continued from page 1)

the conference to set up an interim government and has demanded that Mr. Mobutu, who seized power in a 1965 coup and whose term as president ran out on Wednesday, step down immediately.

Mr. Mobutu said in a speech he would remain in office to assure continuity and announced he would be a candidate for reelection. But he did not give a date.

The coalition had called for strikes on Thursday, the day after Mr. Mobutu's speech, and the capital was effectively shut down.

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JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Jordan Valley 10 / 21

Yesterdays high temperatures: Amman 14, Aqaba 26. Humidity readings: Amman 67 per cent, Aqaba 36 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN: Dr. Tawfiq Qub'a 623629

Dr. Ghazi Tawfiq 782825

Dr. Bassam Farahat 782123

First pharmacy 661912

Ferdous pharmacy 778336

Al Asmaa pharmacy 670755

Nairoohi pharmacy 623672

Al Salam pharmacy 626730

Yacoubi pharmacy 644945

Sunbeam pharmacy 670760

IRRID: Dr. Mazen Jourya 623101

Dr. Mazen Jourya 623101

Al Sheraf's pharmacy (27825)

Min./Max. temp.: Amman 4 / 15

Aqaba 9 / 21

Deserts 3 / 16

ZARQA: Dr. Yousef Awad (—)

Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue: 630941

Rescue: 152, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 891228

Blood Bank 757121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 694390

Public Security Department 63032

Hospital 622630

Police Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467

Amman Municipality Complaints 787111

Telephone Information (Emergency Assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone Repair: 623101

ZARQA: Abdell Telephone Repair: 661101

ZARQA Govt. Hospital (09) 983323

Jordan Television 775111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680700

Jordan Electricity Authority 615615

Electric Power: 636130

RJ Flight Information 08-53200

RJ News 08-53200

ABRAHAM: ABRAHAM: Medical Centre 612010/03

Khaldi Maternity, J. Amman 644281/16

Akileh Maternity, J. Amman 624411/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Mallat, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Shmeisani 664171

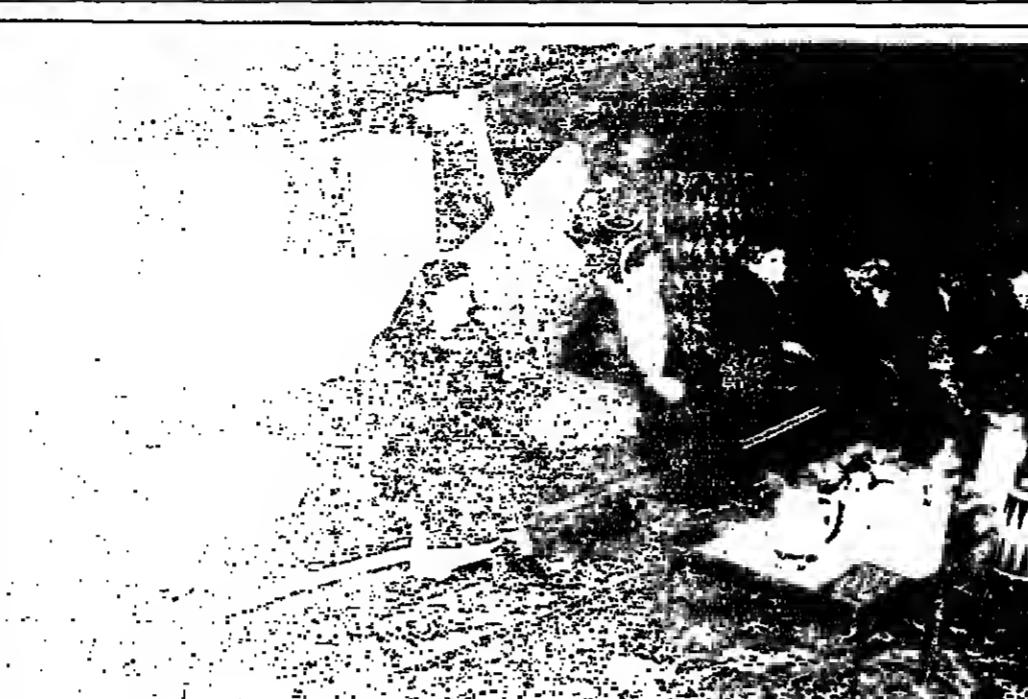
Rescue units help more people, re-open roads

AMMAN (J.T.) — The torrential rains and floods in northern regions of the country are reported to have injured seven persons who were taken to hospital for treatment and at least seven homes were completely flooded with water.

Civil Defence Department (CDD) officials said that the worst affected regions were those of the northern Jordan Valley region, which witnessed floods in most areas. The CDD officials said their teams were continuing their rescue missions Thursday and re-opening roads and clearing culverts and canals.

Earlier reports said that one person had died in the torrent at Yadih near Amman and about 100 others were rescued after being trapped in their cars and homes.

As the Department of Meteorology predicts that another depression with more rains is approaching the Kingdom,



ROYAL OPENING — Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath has opened a specialised centre for diagnosing chest disease in the Ras Al Naqab area in Irbid Governorate. The centre is the first of its kind in the area and will be run by the Muslim Al Nur Society. Princess Sarvath toured the centre's various sections and was briefed on its

activities and the services it provides to tuberculosis patients. Maan Governor Qasem Al Faraysa delivered an address in which he welcomed Princess Sarvath, thanked her for opening the centre and lauded the Hashemite leadership's achievements in various fields.

Parliament speakers to respond Saturday to speech from throne

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament Saturday present their replies to the speech from the throne delivered by His Majesty King Hussein on Dec. 1.

The speakers of the two Houses, Ahmad Al Lawzi and Abdul Latif Arabyat, are expected to formally submit their replies at a meeting at the Royal Court.

In its reply, to be presented to the King, the Upper House will reaffirm the House's commitment to cooperate with the government within the framework of the constitution and the National Charter. It will also support the government's endeavours to coordinate efforts with the Arab countries and the Palestinian people in order to ensure the restoration of the Palestinian people's rights and lands.

The Lower House's reply, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, will reaffirm the House's willingness to cooperate with the executive authority and will bring into being laws on political parties and the press. The House, Petra said, will reaffirm support for the new government in its endeavour to re-establish solidarity among Arab countries.

The two Houses held separate meetings Thursday during which they ratified the contents of the reply speeches.

In other business, the Lower House decided to send cables of appreciation to the King for commuting the death sentences on six convicted members of Mohammad's Army to life imprisonment.

The House also decided that Lower House sessions be held twice a week on Sunday afternoons and Wednesday mornings.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker has sent to the Royal Court a letter which contained a list of names of the members of the Lower House's standing council.

The list comprises House Speaker Abdul Latif Arabyat as council chairman, Abdul Karim Dughmi as first deputy, Mahmoud Hweini as second deputy, Dr. Nayef Abu Tayeh and Abdallah Zreiqat as the chairman's assistants.

Arab council calls for action on charter, help for Iraqi children

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Social Development Amin Awad Mashayekh Friday returned home from Cairo where he attended the meetings of the Council of Arab Social Affairs Ministers and called on Arab states which have not so far ratified the Charter of the Rights of the Arab Child to do so. He noted that Jordan was one of the first countries that signed the charter as well as the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The Arab Social Affairs Ministers also decided to form a committee to formulate the Arab Family Charter before 1993, when the International Charter of the Family will be announced, Dr. Mashayekh said.

He pointed out that Jordan has received a symbolic financial support from the Arab Fund for Social Work to help it cope with the consequences resulting from the return of hundreds of thousands of Jordanians from the Arab countries of the Gulf.

Also, the Arab League Council Thursday issued a statement in Cairo expressing Libya's initiatives to contain the bombing of

the American plane over Scotland and to open an international investigation into the case. At the conclusion of its meetings, which were held at the level of permanent representatives of Libya's request, the Arab League Council called on the United States and the United Kingdom not to take any economic or military action because such an action would aggravate and further complicate the situation in the region.

The statement stressed that such a dispute should be settled by peaceful means in accordance with the principles of the United Nations and the Arab League. The council also called for forming a joint U.N.-Arab League committee to study all documents related to this case.

The council requested the Arab League secretary general to follow up on the implementation of the council's decision and to consider the council in session to follow up on the developments of the situation.

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Jail sentences of Mohammad's Army defendants reduced

AMMAN (Petra) — Speakers of the Upper and Lower House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi and Abdul Latif Arabyat Thursday thanked His Majesty King Hussein for commuting the death sentences of six members of the so-called Mohammad's Army to life imprisonment with hard labour.

The 20 member-group were given various sentences by the State Security Court. Eight of them were sentenced to death, two in absentia, for carrying out terrorist activities and plotting to assassinate Jordanian and foreign persons.

The other twelve were given jail sentences ranging from four years to life imprisonment. The verdict followed several court sessions in which several witnesses for the prosecution testified before the court incriminating the men.

Bread prices to remain stable, officials say

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government will not introduce any increases to the prices of bread and the product will not be added to the list of subsidised foodstuffs sold through ration food coupons.

The decision was taken Thursday by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and announced at a meeting with Minister of Supply Mohammad Saqqaf and senior ministry officials.

Only powdered milk, sugar, and rice are being sold at subsidised prices to Jordanian citizens through coupons, a system introduced late last year to prevent manipulation of prices and smuggling of food commodities abroad.

The government has no intention of applying the food coupon system to bread, which is considered as a basic food commodity for Jordanian citizens, said the prime minister at the meeting. Sharif Zeid also stressed that it was important for the Ministry of Supply to adopt strict measures related to maintaining strategic supplies in the country, Mr. Saqqaf said.

He said that the Ministry of Supply will maintain and adhere to its basic plans of ensuring sufficient supplies of wheat, flour, sugar, rice, milk and other basic commodities.

MEDAL PRESENTATION — His Majesty King Hussein has conferred on Greek Catholic Bishop of Amman Simeon Yousif the Jordanian Independence Medal of the First Order. The medal was

presented to the bishop by Chief of the Royal Court Adnan Abu Ghosh at a meeting held at the Royal Court.

German officials wind up visit today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Two senior German Interior Ministry officials wind up a five-day visit to Jordan today and leave for home.

The two, Hans Ludwig Zachart, president of the Criminal Investigation Bureau, and Hagen Fabarschensky, director of the Anti-Narcotic Department, Friday were accompanied by Jordanian officials on a tour of the ancient Nabatean city of Petra and other touristic sites.

During their stay here, they were received by His Majesty King Hussein, who they briefed on current German-Jordanian coordination and cooperation in the field of combating crime and in stemming drug trafficking operations.

The two German officials were also received by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Thursday in the presence of Public Security Department (PSD) Director Fadel Ali.

Discussion centered on German-Jordanian cooperation in security matters with particular attention to means of combating crime and drug trafficking operations.

The German government has provided the Kingdom with helicopters and vehicles especially equipped to combat drug trafficking and monitor border areas to prevent smuggling.

The prime minister voiced Jordan's deep appreciation for the assistance and expressed satisfaction with the ongoing cooperation aimed at offering service to the

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of scientific and technical books at the University of Jordan.
- ★ Art exhibition by Dia Azawi at Mena Saudi Studio — tel. 829700.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by a group of Iraqi artists at Alz Art Gallery.
- ★ Acting exhibition by Jumana Al Husseini at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation Gallery — opening ceremony at 6 p.m.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Jalal Oreyiq at the Phoenix Art Gallery.
- ★ Antique Christmas show of Jeff's Hanafis at the Marriott Hotel.

FILM

- ★ Videos entitled "Exodus from Germany," "From Partition to Unification" and "Berlin, Dec. 22, 1989, the Brandenburg Gate is Open" will be shown today at the Goethe Institute at 8 p.m. on the occasion of the first anniversary of German reunification.

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, Amman, invites qualified candidates to apply for positions of a temporary nature initially up to August 1992, in the general services category. They are as follows:

Administrative Assistants

Personnel Assistants

Library Assistants

Finance Assistants

General Service Assistants

Programme Assistants

Conference Assistants

Reference Assistants

Qualifications:

1. B.A. or Bsc degree in relevant field
2. Working knowledge of the use of PCs essential
3. Fluent in both Arabic and English, reading, writing, and spoken. French desirable
4. Minimum three years' experience.

Research Assistants

Qualifications:

1. University degree in the following fields: economics; social sciences; geology; engineering and statistics
2. Working knowledge of the use of PCs
3. Fluent in both Arabic and English, reading, writing and spoken. French desirable
4. Minimum requirement of three years of relevant work experience.

Secretaries

Qualifications:

1. High school and secretarial diplomas
2. Working knowledge of word processing using WORD PERFECT or WANG
3. Fluent in both Arabic and English, reading, writing, and spoken. French desirable
4. Well acquainted in all other secretarial duties
5. Successful in passing United Nations clerical test
6. Successful in passing typing tests in Arabic and English (Arabic 40 w.p.m.; English 70 w.p.m.)
7. Minimum requirement of three years' experience in the relevant field.

Bilingual typists:

Qualifications:

1. High school and secretarial diplomas

Interested candidates should send their curriculum vitae to the following address:

Personnel Section
P.O.Box 927 115
Amman, Jordan

The last date for receipt of applications is Dec. 12, 1991.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975

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Exemplary compassion

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein's commutation of the death sentences passed on six members of the so-called Mohammad's Army, who were convicted by the State Security Court, to life imprisonment is an act of exemplary compassion that has become a trademark of the monarch. Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker followed, by lowering all the other sentences passed by the court.

There is little doubt that the King intended to convey a message to those extremist elements and their supporters by giving them an additional food for thought and reconsideration and a cause for repentance.

From a strictly legal point of view, however, what the King and the prime minister have done is in keeping with the spirit of Jordan's international treaty obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) which the Kingdom had ratified in 1976. Paragraph 2 of Article 6 of the said covenant states that "in countries which have not abolished the death penalty, sentences of death may be imposed only for the most serious crimes...." Paragraph 4 also stipulates that "anyone sentenced to death shall have the right to seek pardon or commutation of the sentence." Accordingly, the international covenant not only suggests and encourages the phasing out of capital punishment but also proposes the commutation of such sentences as a matter of "right."

Over and above these policy and legal considerations, there is also the matter of the serious legal flaw in the administration of criminal justice in the State Security Court under existing legislations. Paragraph 5 of Article 14 of the aforementioned international instrument clearly bestows on all criminally convicted persons the right to appeal sentences imposed on them to a higher tribunal. That paragraph reads as follows: "Everyone convicted of a crime shall have the right to his conviction and sentence being reviewed by a higher tribunal according to law." Under existing law, the persons found guilty by the State Security Law have no right of appeal. New draft laws purport to rectify such a serious omission. Even if the government wants to provide the convicted persons the right of appeal, it cannot do so under current applicable laws. The file on Mohammad's Army, therefore, serves as a reminder that existing laws need to be redressed in the shortest possible time in order to ensue the right of appeal in the legislation of the country.

The interventions of the King and the prime minister in the case came, therefore, not only to bestow compassion on convicted felons but also to provide the necessary equity that was lacking due to flaws in the existing legislation. As a matter of fact the jurisprudence of equity is designed to accomplish just that objective by complementing the dictates of law with necessary dosages of humanity and magnanimity. Let us hope that the spirit behind the intervention of the King will be reciprocated by all those who still harbour false hopes that they can threaten the security and stability of the country with impunity.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily described Israel's absence from the bilateral talks in Washington as a big insult to the American administration, the American people and the United Nations. Israel's stand was a reply to the American nation which has been providing the Israeli people with sustenance, military aid and the means to perpetuate their occupation of the Arab territories, the paper said. It said that while millions of Americans live in abject poverty with many of them homeless and living off charity and welfare handouts, successive American administrations have been milking the American taxpayers for money that went to the Jewish state in different forms of aid. Despite all that Washington had done to please the Israelis and their leaders, their delegation failed to attend the Dec. 4 talks in the American capital as arranged by the American president and his Secretary of State James Baker, the paper pointed out. It said that the world is now awaiting effective response from the American administration to such a big insult and a speedy action to force the Jewish state to accept the international legitimacy and the U.N. resolutions. The United States, which pursues a war of genocide on the Iraqi people through the embargo, should take proper action with regard to Israel's refusal to implement U.N. resolutions and end its occupation of other countries, the paper said. It said that the world is watching to see the U.S. reaction to Israel's arrogance and defiance.

A columnist in Al Rai Arabic daily has urged the Arab League, which opened a meeting in Cairo Thursday to discuss American threats against Libya, to adopt a position which would not compromise the security of the Arab Nation. Mahmoud Rimawi said that the Arab masses do not expect from the league to hand over the Libyans allegedly responsible of the Pan Am crash of 1988, nor it is beneficial to issue a statement attacking the U.S. administration. He said that the Arab League is called upon to announce that the Arab Nation undertakes to resolve the issue through dialogue and quiet diplomacy in a neutral manner. The writer said that the Arabs can by no means allow the Arab League to sacrifice Libya after Iraq for the sake of sufficing the lust of warmongers claiming to be building a new world order. He also paid tribute to Egypt for undertaking to serve as an arbitrator in this question hosting an international panel to pass judgment in the Pan Am case. The writer said the Arab masses can by no means accept a situation whereby the Americans level accusations against them and at the same time be judges trying Arabs and condemning them for alleged crimes.

Soviet Union faces uncertain future after a 'special year'

By Oliver Waters
Editor

MOSCOW — The coming year is a special one," President Mikhail Gorbachev said in his new year's message for 1991. "In it we must decide the fate of our multi-ethnic state."

Even Mr. Gorbachev could hardly have foreseen just how special.

As the year draws towards its close, the multi-ethnic state he championed is near to breaking up into its 15 constituent republics — the three Baltic states have already left.

The Kremlin, the force holding the union of 285 million people together, has surrendered almost all power to republican governments.

The economy, amid the uncertainties of a free market, is spiralling towards collapse.

The 60-year-old Soviet president himself is fighting for political survival and many pundits — and the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) — doubt he will last out the year.

The fate of the Soviet Union is anything but decided.

Ahead lie economic hardship and political confusion. Theat,

best, a tentative new start for the territories of "the former Soviet Union" as it is widely known — at worst, famine, ethnic conflict and even civil war.

Fighting is already a daily occurrence in the Caucasus region between Armenia and Azeri, Georgian and Ossetian.

Apart from the Nazi invasion of 1941, this has been the most tumultuous year since the old Russian empire collapsed seven decades ago.

The tide of democratic reforms launched in 1985 swept on. Elections were held in republic after republic.

Mr. Gorbachev himself seemed to draw back from the process, defending his army's use of force in Lithuania and appointing conservatives to top government posts.

Then on Aug. 19 a group of right-wingers close to Mr. Gorbachev tried to turn back the clock.

They sent tanks onto the streets of Moscow but lacked the ruthlessness to make their coup succeed. Three young men were killed and after three days it collapsed.

The result was the final des-

truction of the conservative, centrist core which had held the giant nation together since the days of revolutionary leader Vladimir Lenin.

Conservatives were disgraced and hounded from office. The Communist Party, unchallenged ruler since it seized power in 1917, was humiliated, disowned and effectively banned.

Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, which had decided to secede, were given their future relations to a disiplined manner.

They could decide on an orderly divorce and division of assets or that their material interests lie in some form of economic union, perhaps based on the European Community.

"Personally I expect that common sense will triumph in the end," said Yuri Nikolayev, deputy editor of the conservative daily Sovetskaya Rossiya.

"The union will re-emerge in a new form, because above all of the need for economic development, the fact that a single economic space is essential. But it will not happen in 1992."

His counterpart on the liberal Nezavisimaya Gazeta, Igor Zakharov, said: "It's still on the decline, but it's not yet at the bottom. Only after the bottom, after the collapse ... (can things improve). I don't see any other

way out, we still need a crisis."

Optimists hope that once the heady wine of national freedom is digested, the 12 surviving Soviet republics will be able to work out their future relations to a disiplined manner.

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John Sununu — president's pugnacious lieutenant

By David Nagy
Reuter

WASHINGTON — White House Chief of Staff John Sununu is known around Washington as a hard-charging political brawler unafraid to stomp on toes, make enemies or provoke curses as he goes about his work.

Those qualities, which saw him through many a scrape during his impressive political rise, proved Mr. Sununu's undoing on Tuesday as he submitted his resignation in a letter admitting he had become a liability to President George Bush.

"In politics, especially during the seasons of a political campaign, perceptions that can be

effectively dealt with at other times can be — and will be — converted into real political negatives," he said in a "dear Mr. president" letter released while he and President Bush were on a political trip.

Mr. Bush said Mr. Sununu would remain on staff as a counselor with cabinet rank through March 1, 1992. The resignation takes effect on Dec. 15.

For the muster of Mr. Sununu, 52, a conservative Republican and former governor of New Hampshire, reportedly came from all sides — a kind of backhanded compliment to a pugnacious man who prided himself on his intellect, his stomach for conflict, his single-minded decisiveness and his refusal to suffer

anyone he thought a fool.

These included both congressional Democrats who dubbed him "the pit bull" and fellow Republicans and Mr. Bush partisans, who blamed him for Mr. Bush's declining poll ratings and perceived go-slow approach on U.S. economic woes and domestic ills.

Mr. Sununu, of Lebanese extraction on his father's side, was born on July 2, 1939, in Havana, Cuba. He grew up in New York and obtained a doctorate in mechanical engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

While a student he founded an engineering consultancy that em-

ployed 150 people by the time he graduated. He joined Tufts University at age 27 and became associate dean of the College of Engineering two years later.

He moved to New Hampshire in 1969, partly to escape high taxes in Massachusetts, and became involved in the state's conservative politics. Elected governor in 1983, he changed the state's deficit into a surplus before leaving in 1989.

In February 1988 it was Mr. Sununu who as New Hampshire governor stepped forward to revitalise Mr. Bush's floundering presidential campaign by guiding him to victory in the state's crucial presidential primary.

Complaints extended beyond style into substance, including allegations among Republicans

worried about a building voter backlash that the conservative Sununu, suspicious of all federal intervention in the economy, was responsible for Mr. Bush's refusal to attempt bold, quick economic remedies.

Mr. Sununu often dismissed such accusations with a sneer, but recently infuriated Mr. Bush partisans by shifting the blame on one count to the president, saying Mr. Bush, not he, originated the market-shaking suggestion of

lower credit card rates. All this followed an ethics controversy last April when it was learned he was using a military jet costing \$3,495 an hour for personal trips as well as official business.

The White House said there was nothing improper about the flights but nonetheless tightened its travel rules.

Mr. Sununu is married and has eight children with his wife Nancy.



John Sununu

U.N. issues statement of solidarity with Palestinians

Following is the text of the statement by the president of the General Assembly, Samir S. Shihabi (Saudi Arabia) on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People:

Today we commemorate the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. Fourteen years ago, by its resolution 32/40 B, the General Assembly decided to commemorate this day, the 19th of November, as an annual observance, in recognition of the need to strengthen and consolidate international support for the Palestinian people. The designation by the United Nations of this day as a world-wide occasion for the reaffirmation of International Solidarity with the Palestinian People reflects the international conviction that peace in the Middle East region must be based on the attainment of justice for the Palestinian people. This day of solidarity symbolizes the great importance which the General Assembly, in particular, attaches to the question of Palestine, the full attainment of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and the need to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement in the Middle East.

The problem of Palestine has been a major concern of the United Nations ever since its establishment, and this organization bears an historic responsibility towards ensuring its just settlement and a full restoration of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people. For over four decades now, the Palestinian people have been struggling relentlessly for the recovery of their fundamental rights, including their right to self-determination. The United Nations has an indispensable role to play in this respect, especially in view of the fact that during the past 40 years of its existence this world organization has adopted numerous resolutions in the General Assembly and the Security Council on the question of Palestine, most of which still remain to be implemented.

At a time when the world is witnessing a major relaxation in international tensions and when solutions to many regional conflicts are being facilitated by the new positive international climate, it is incumbent upon all of us, and in particular for the United Nations, to keep the search for a political solution of the question of Palestine high on the international agenda. Now more than ever before, it is imperative

I should like to take this opportunity, madame chairperson, to extend to you and to your esteemed committee my sincere thanks for your great service to the objectives of the United Nations. The observance of this international day of solidarity will once again reaffirm to the Palestinian people that the United Nations remains committed to its resolution and decisions on Palestine and to the realisation of their inalienable rights.

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World Bank lends India \$500m

NEW DELHI (R) — The World Bank has approved a \$500 million loan for cash-strapped India to support ambitious reforms of the state-dominated economy, a bank spokesman said Friday.

The banks executive board said in Washington Thursday another \$400 million would be allocated next year to help finance reforms such as a plan to retrain workers who lose their jobs in a revamping of India's bloated public sector.

The \$500 million structural adjustment loan (SAL) is the first such loan the World Bank has given to India. The spokesman said \$300 million would be disbursed immediately and the remainder next year.

Structural adjustment loans are

given to support governments confronted with a balance of payments crisis and are not tied to specific projects.

The SAL was intended to help India to relax severe import restrictions, imposed earlier this year because its foreign exchange reserves were nearly exhausted and overseas banks had refused new lending, the spokesman said.

India's \$71 billion debt is the third highest in the developing world.

Delhi borrowed \$4 billion from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) this year to cope with its external payments crisis. The money came with a list of painful reforms.

Within weeks of taking office

in June, Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao launched a series of ambitious reforms to an economy steeped in decades of socialist dogma.

Prodiced by the IMF, the government devalued the rupee by 23 per cent against major currencies, made deep spending cuts in the 1991/92 budget (April-March), overhauled trade policy, abolished most industrial licences, and opened up foreign investment to once-hated multinationals.

The remaining \$200 million of the SAL and the \$400 million project loan will be conditional on new reforms in the 1992/93 budget, the bank spokesman said.

The \$200 million SAL instalment will probably be due to more trade deregulation, he said. India's import tariffs are among the world's highest — up to 700 per cent for some goods.

The \$400 million project loan may be allocated to a proposed national renewal fund that the government wants to set up as a safety net for workers who lose their jobs in a planned reorganisation of chronically indebted public firms.

"The idea would be that some of this would be available to offset the social costs of India's economic adjustment," the spokesman said. "But the specifics have yet to be worked out with the government."

Boeing 707 and 737 aircraft on international routes and two smaller planes on domestic routes.

Saudi Arabia, angered by Yemen's pro-Iraq policy during the Gulf crisis, has frozen its financial aid to Yemeni, Mr. Hini told the weekly Aden magazine.

Mr. Hini did not say what Sanaa would pay, if anything, to

the company's capital but owned only 49 per cent of its shares.

"The liquidation of the Saudi partner's share in Yemen Airways will be done on Jan. 1 and the company will become 100 per cent Yemeni," Mr. Hini told the weekly Aden magazine.

The company operates five

Yemen Airways was established in 1975 with an initial paid-up capital of 130 million riyals (\$10.83 million).

They've eased to 4½ per cent," said Steven Wood, director of financial markets research at Bank of America, shortly after the Fed move.

The rate, closely controlled by the Fed, is the amount banks charge one another for short-term loans. Changes in the rate influence everything from the cost of a home mortgage to a business loan.

The U.S. Labour Department reported Friday that the November unemployment rate was steady at 6.8 per cent, but the economy lost 241,000 non-farm jobs — the most since March, when the recession was severe, and far higher than economists' expectations.

The Fed has steadily cut rates for more than a year in an effort to boost the flagging economy. Lower rates should encourage consumers and businesses to borrow and spend, but so far the cuts have done little to boost the economy.

Everyone agrees the economy

is on the way to recovery, but the amount of stimulus is uncertain.

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The Mirror is a legend among British tabloids. Nearly a century old and with circulation around three million, it is the second biggest selling British daily after the Rupert Murdoch-owned tabloid Sun.

Financial analysts said it was an open question whether asset sales could match the debt, accumulated in recent years as Maxwell bought up U.S. companies including the New York Daily News and Macmillan.

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Tudjman: U.S. backs war if it fails to recognise Croatia

BONN (R) — Croatian President Franjo Tudjman said Friday the United States would be supporting a barbaric war if it did not rapidly recognise his republic's independence from Yugoslavia.

Mr. Tudjman, who Thursday won Germany's promise to recognise Croatia this month, declared he was "astonished" to hear Washington had come out firmly against quick recognition.

"If this is true, we will have to see it as a setback," he told journalists who informed him of a U.S. call Thursday evening for continued negotiation on Yugoslavia's future.

"Taken objectively, that equals support for the aggression against Croatia, support for this barbaric war that is unparalleled in the world today," he said in Bonn.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl promised Mr. Tudjman Thursday that Germany and as many of its European Community partners as possible would recognise Croatia by Christmas.

He made the same promise to Slovenia two days earlier and backed up Bonn's tough stand against Serbia by suspending all transport agreements with Belgrade Wednesday.

Tension among Western allies over recognition, which Bonn has

vigorously supported against its partners' calls for caution, came to the surface Thursday when both the United States and France expressed reservations.

State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said the United States felt continued negotiations on a peaceful solution to the fighting in Yugoslavia were the best way to proceed.

"We are concerned that recognition will lead to more killing and set off an expansion of the conflict. We are concerned about what it will mean for other republics like Bosnia-Herzegovina and Macedonia," an official said.

French President Francois Mitterrand on his part warned against "simple unconditional recognition."

"What France wishes is that this sovereignty should be recognised and implemented under international guarantees," he said in a television interview.

Mr. Kohl's spokesman Dieter Vogel played down Washington's doubts, saying: "The German government has known this for a long time, this is not new. There are indeed different opinions."

Mr. Tudjman said two or three EC countries would probably not recognise his republic this month.

but said that countries that did not do so would soon follow.

Austria announced Thursday evening it would recognise the republics and Mr. Tudjman said other states — including Australia, the Vatican, Argentina and several other South American countries — would follow soon.

Germany put no conditions on recognition for Croatia and noted with satisfaction a law the Zagreb parliament passed this week to protect minority rights, Mr. Tudjman said.

Mr. Tudjman said he did not discuss military aid with Mr. Kohl and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher on his visit to Germany.

"But recognition will certainly put Croatia in a much more favourable situation because Croatia, as a fully independent state, would then be able to organise its defence much better," he said.

Meanwhile, the Yugoslav army, which has backed Serbian "heavy bombardment" but did not stay on the phone long enough to specify if the city was being shelled or was under air attack.

Croatian radio said the town was shelled from navy boats and from surrounding hills. One person was killed and nine were injured, it said.

Speaking in Italian, De Mistura used the term "heavy bombardment" but did not stay on the phone long enough to specify if the city was being shelled or was under air attack.

Croatian radio said the town was shelled from navy boats and from surrounding hills. One person was killed and nine were injured, it said.



Francois Mitterrand

Mitterrand approval rating hits all-time low

PARIS (R) — President Francois Mitterrand's popularity is at its lowest since he took office in 1981, according to an opinion poll published Friday.

Only 31 per cent of French voters are still confident in Mr. Mitterrand, whose term runs until 1995, while two-thirds no longer trust him, the poll by the Sofres Institute for *Le Figaro* magazine showed.

Buffed by rising unemployment, economic stagnation, disquiet over immigration and finance scandals, the Socialist president has tried to recapture the initiative over European unification and plans to amend the French constitution.

But the latest poll showed his approval rating, which reached a peak during the Gulf war early this year, continues to sink. He lost eight percentage points in a month.

Prime Minister Edith Cresson's approval rating was even lower at 26 per cent, with 69 per cent saying they were not confident in her.

The poll showed the two most popular French politicians were European Commission President Jacques Delors, with 51 per cent, and centre-right European parliamentarian Simone Veil, with 50 per cent.

In a separate development, a senior army high command source said Thursday the French army is to be reorganised into two separate commands in 1993, one for operations in Europe and the other for action elsewhere.

Each command will be headed by its own inter-services staff, able to activate air, naval and ground forces, the source told Reuters.

The Europe Command will be created from the present French armoured corps which has units in France and Germany.

The Overseas Command, for commando missions and counter-insurgency warfare, will be composed of light, mobile units but will also be able to draw on an armoured division, the source said.

Shooting rampage in India claims 51 lives

NEW DELHI (R) — Sikh insurgents gunned down 10 people at a railroad crossing in northern India early Friday, bringing to at least 51 the death toll in an overnight shooting rampage, police said.

More than 20 people have been injured in the shooting linked to a decade-old insurrection by militant Sikhs.

Ten bodies were found at a railroad crossing in Uttar Pradesh state Friday, the victim of an attack by Sikh militants, police said in Lucknow, the state capital.

On Thursday night, at least 14 people were killed and more than a dozen injured in attacks in the state's Terai region, a jungle belt in the foothills of the Himalayas.

At least 26 people were killed in a town in Haryana state Thursday, United News of India said. Four Sikh militants drove around to Tohana town shooting at motorists, shopkeepers and workers at a cotton mill. Nine people were badly injured.

Tohama is about 40 kilometres from the Sikh-dominated state of Punjab, where the militants are fighting for an independent homeland.

Tens of thousands of people have been killed in the insurgency, including more than 5,200 this year.

Ukraine aims for boosted profile, EC membership

GENEVA (R) — Independent Ukraine aims to set up economic ties with all its neighbours and key states around the world and eventually join the European Community, according to the former Soviet republic's envoy in Geneva.

Andrei Ozadovsky, Ukrainian ambassador to the United Nations European headquarters since 1984, said the new-born state would also play a full role in disarmament negotiations and join the Helsinki European security process in its own right.

"Despite our limited resources and the economic problems we face, Ukraine intends to show it is a fully-fledged member of the international family of nations," Mr. Ozadovsky told Reuters in an interview Thursday.

"Our priority will be links with the states around us as well as the United States and Canada and other countries that have large Ukrainian populations," said Mr. Ozadovsky, 59, one of Kiev's two ambassadors already in place in the outside world.

"Eventually we will seek admission to the EC. Although we know that will not be easy we feel our industrial and agricultural base and our position at the geographical centre of Europe give us special advantages."

Ukraine and Belarus, now called Belarus, were admitted to the United Nations in 1945 when Josef Stalin, arguing for recogni-

COLUMN 8

Tokyo ousts Tehran as world's most expensive city

GENEVA (R) — Tokyo has ousted Tehran as the world's most expensive city due to effective devaluation of the Iranian currency, a Geneva consultant said.

Security forces needed to take

coordinated action to halt attacks

intended to provoke backlash

against minority Sikhs living outside Punjab, Marxist Saifuddin Choudhary said.

Both Haryana and Uttar

Pradesh are close to Punjab, and

militants have been known to

operate in these states if their

activities are restricted in their

own territory.

Last week, the army was

ordered to help restore law and

order in Punjab and more than

100,000 troops have fanned out

across the state.

Sikhs make up only three per

cent of India's 850 million people

but are in a majority in Punjab, a

prosperous farming state bordering

Pakistan.

The militants say Sikhs are

discriminated against by the Hindu

state, who make up 82 per cent of

India's population and dominate

the government.

Soviet cossacks publicly lash 3 fur hat thieves

MOSCOW (R) — Local Cossacks publicly lashed three thieves who were snatching fur hats from the heads of residents of the southern Russian town of Krasnodar, Soviet News Agency (TASS) reported. It said people rushed to the aid of one victim of the lashing. It was not clear when the lashing took place.

Social stigma of single motherhood erodes in U.S.

WASHINGTON (R) — Unwed motherhood appears to be losing its social stigma in the United States as more women are now choosing to remain single rather than marry the father of their child, the U.S. Census Bureau has reported. Only 27 per cent of women 15 to 34 years old who conceived out of wedlock in the years 1985-89 married the father before the child was born, a census bureau report on fertility said. This showed a steady decline from the 52 per cent of women in similar circumstances who married before the birth of the child in the years 1960-64.

The report on fertility of American women was based on information from the June 1990 census. "The decline may reflect the opinion of some women that they may be better off in the long run by relying more on the support of their parents and relatives for financial and emotional assistance than by entering a potentially unstable marriage undertaken solely to prevent an out-of-wedlock birth," the report said.

The resolution also called for the German side to press for an increase in the powers of the European Parliament and urged the summit to come up with a clear basis for joint EC foreign and security policies.

Mr. Ozadovsky said Ukraine had no desire to build up a large army comparable in size to those of France and Germany as some parliamentarians in Kiev suggested.

"There is still little understanding around the world among political leaders, public organisations and even scientists that this was a catastrophe for all of us whose consequences could be felt for decades," Mr. Ozadovsky said.

The envoy said that in future his country would pay more attention to the score of U.N. agencies and international organisations represented in Geneva.

The envoy, a U.N. veteran who worked in its New York secretariat as a young diplomat, said one vital mission he aimed to fulfil was to increase outside awareness of the continuing effects of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

"Eventually we will seek admission to the EC. Although we know that will not be easy we feel our industrial and agricultural base and our position at the geographical centre of Europe give us special advantages."

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Polish parliament elects Jan Olszewski as premier

WARSAW (R) — The Polish parliament elected Jan Olszewski, a former Solidarity lawyer and candidate of a centre-right coalition, as prime minister Friday.

The Sejm (lower house) voted 250 to 57 with 107 abstentions to appoint Mr. Olszewski, nominated by President Lech Walesa Thursday.

Mr. Olszewski, 61, replaces Jan Krzysztof Bielecki, whose resignation was approved by the Sejm Thursday. Mr. Bielecki offered his resignation after parliamentary elections in October.

In a statement before the vote, Mr. Olszewski said his government might have to ask Poland to tighten belts further as it saw little hope of quick relief from the country's deep recession.

"The economic situation is such that no government may count on quick or easy success, possibly on any success for a long time," Mr. Olszewski said.

"Possibly we will have to appeal to society for further sacrifices."

Poland embarked two years ago on a free market economy. The reforms resulted in acute recession and two million unemployed.

The European Command will be created from the present French armoured corps which has units in France and Germany.

The Overseas Command, for commando missions and counter-insurgency warfare, will be composed of light, mobile units but will also be able to draw on an armoured division, the source said.

Deslors points to twin threats to EC summit deal

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Community (EC) summit next week is as much at risk from cash demands by poorer states as from Britain's Euro-scepticism, European Commission President Jacques Delors said Thursday.

"One has forgotten that there are other countries which might say at the end 'this won't do,'" Mr. Delors said in a last news conference four days before the Maastricht summit on political and monetary union.

"It won't just be Britain against all the others."

The final draft on political union, circulated by EC president the Netherlands Thursday, indicated that Britain and the "southern states" — Spain, Ireland, Portugal and Greece — may be poised to win concessions.

The text, which caps a year of treaty negotiations, still reflected majority views by referring to an "Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) and monetary union" as the backbone of the EC.

Finance Minister Theo Waigel, trying to reassure the country, said parliament would not be asked to give up the mark.

"Nor have we made a present of it to Europe," he said.

"We will only bring our currency into a Community in which stability is guaranteed as much as it is in Germany. We call on our partners to adapt. They must first harden their own currencies."

Deslors said poorer EC states, which may not qualify to join in EMU when the time comes later this century, were dead serious about their demand for more help from wealthier northern states.

Economic and social cohesion, the term used in the EC to cover this issue, is "the key point of the marriage contract" for him, he said.

Other points where EC leaders would have to work out a deal included the details of a future common foreign and security

policy, including for the first time the notion of an EC role in defence affairs.

British Prime Minister John Major, in an article published Thursday, said Britain was prepared to agree to an increase in the powers of the European Parliament at next week's EC summit.

"The European Parliament must have a more important role to play," Major wrote in the leftist *Workers' Voice* newspaper, the Netherlands' third-largest daily.

"We are prepared to give it more power, in monitoring the commission more rigorously, establishing itself as a real watchdog over the community's budgetary affairs," he wrote.

"We are also prepared to give the European Parliament some additional influence over legislation," he said.

"I shall come ready to negotiate, and clear the path towards a more effective, democratic and open Community," he said. "I am proud of the Community's successes and I want to agree an agreement at Maastricht."

Meanwhile, the German Parliament firmly backed Mr. Kohl's policy on European unity Thursday, but urged him not to let economic unity take a back seat to political refugees.

During the debate, Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher criticised the draft treaty on European integration as too timid in granting new rights to the European Parliament.

Germany still wants changes in the draft treaty on a European Community political union, he told parliament.

Mentioning an issue firmly opposed by Britain, Mr. Genscher also stated: "we also strive for a federal structure for the united Europe."

"The German government does not consider the results reached so far are sufficient," Mr. Genscher said.

"We want the parliament to have a say in further areas. We want simultaneous mandates for the commission and the parliament. And we want the parliament to have a say in changing treaties and supplementary agreements."

"If progress on this cannot be achieved in one step, we will work for a step-by-step approach," he added.